An appreciable area of *kari* lands near the Kayenkulam and Vembanad lakes was in a neglected condition. It could be improved and converted into dry lands fit for cocoanut cultivation.

In the interior parts of the country, there were lands uncultivated on both sides of perennial streams and rivers. The height of such lands from the water level ranged from 4 to 10 ft. The lands were not cultivated as the people could not easily manage to take the water to the lands which could be done only by engines. The price of such engines varied from Rs. 100 to Rs. 4,000. In Madras, an engine was recently made by the help of which water could be carried to a height of 30 ft. the engine being worked by a pair of ordinary bulls and costing only Rs. 100. Such engines could be freely used in Travancore also. The Government should help the poor ryots in buying such engines by the grant of loans on the security of the engines and realise the loan in small instalments.

The lands had also not sufficient manure, before cultivation. If manures were applied as in the case of the lands at Onattukara and other places, much better yield would be the result.

To remedy the above evils the Member suggested,—

(1) that, in cases where persons were prepared to take up blocks of such uncared for and neglected lands with a view to cultivate them on scientific lines under the direction and supervision of the Director of Agriculture, the Government should render help by granting the necessary funds in advance ;

(2) that any loss arising from that undertaking by unavoidable causes should be mitigated by the Government;

(3) that, in case the cultivation proved a success, the amount advanced by the Government should be held a first charge on the produce;

(4) that, in places where persons were not available to undertake such experimental cultivation, the Department of Agriculture should select small plots and conduct cultivation to serve as models to the ryots;

(5) that at least a sum of one lakh of rupees should be placed at the disposal of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries every year for the grant of loans to agriculturists and industrialists to be used for agricultural and industrial purposes;

(6) that the loans be made to the ryots on reasonable and easy terms so as to enable them to take full advantage of the concession; and

(7) that the amount spent on the Agricultural Department be increased to widen the scope and usefulness of the department.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(2) Other Industries.

64. Need for the appointment of a Committee to enquire into and report upon the ways in which the Government may co-operate with the people in the economic development of the country

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappila, B. A. (Member, Nominated) congratulated the Government on the notable step taken towards attempting a solution of the subject. He referred to the appointment of Dr. S. G. Barker for the Industrial Survey of the State. He must candidly admit, the Member said, that, at first, the appointment did not produce a favourable impression in the country, because Dr. Barker was known only as Vice-Principal in the Training College and no one knew anything about the special qualifications he possessed for the post. Several even thought that some one with better qualifications could have been appointed. But, since coming to Trivandrum and hearing his lecture on the industrial development of the State and knowing his plans and methods of work and from the subsequent information about his work elsewhere and his scheme to be carried out here, he might say that the original view had given place to a favourable impression about his appointment; the people

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only hoped that Dr. Barker would justify his selection by the Government and the confidence reposed in him.

Travancore was a country of infinite resources and, if they were systematically tapped, there was no limit to the exent of their development. There was a vast field for industrial and economic development, though, no doubt, several steps had been taken for bringing about the industrial regeneration of the land—he meant the measures taken by the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies who had influenced the public by their excellent ways of doing work which had already benefited the people and the country. If Government would only place some more funds at their disposal, progress would be more marked.

With regard to the industrial development of the land, it was entirely in the hands of Dr. Barker. One suggestion he would make was that an Advisory Committee consisting of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Chief Engineer, the Conservator of Forests, the Director and Deputy Director of Public Instruction and a few prominent business men, be appointed, Dr. Barker being asked to place his views before the Committee for advice and deliberation. The views and plans thus discussed might be placed by Dr. Barker before the Government for such action as they might deem fit to take. The Member believed that such a Committee would be of great help to Dr. Barker who was ignorant of the language and the conditions of the country. It was desirable that the Committee should have a free hand and that they should be given the necessary help in the shape of money contribution also.

The Member then dealt with the lines on which the industrial development ought to proceed. One advantage Travancore had over other Native States or the Madras Presidency was that it was on a higher level as regards popular education. That was a sufficient reason for the Government to organize a body of un-official workers to co-operate with and help the authorities in the noble task of the industrial, economic and agricultural re-generation of the land. The people—educated and uneducated, rich as well as poor—had already given ample proof of their earnest desire to co-operate with the Government in the construction of works useful to the public, such as roads, schools, &c. The Government would, therefore, do well to establish a body like the Mysore Economic Conference which would assuredly be of the greatest possible benefit to the country. He was confident that a Committee of the kind, composed of some responsible officials and accredited representatives of the people, would prove an effective organization by which the energy and resources of the country could materialise into solid work for the people. The Member here explained the benefits of co-operative action between officials and non-officials and dilated on the good results which would flow from an organization like the Mysore Economic Conference where opportunities could be given for the ideas of people to coalesce and for a free exchange of views. He then quoted the opinion of the late Mr. Rangacharlu of Mysore that the one great problem was how to save the people from the crushing influence of officialdom and make them free to help themselves for the development of the industries. He also expatiated on what Sir Horace Plunkett had done for Ireland to raise the people from abject poverty and economic helplessness to the prosperity they now enjoyed—all by the ready weapon of co-operation and joint action. No doubt, as Sir Plunkett himself had once observed, industrial or economic regeneration was a work of time. Still, the desire of the people for co-operation and co-operative action which had already manifested itself in several directions and the voluntary forces at work to raise themselves, should be organised and mobilised.

The next point which the Member commended to the attention of the Government was making provision for affording financial facilities for starting industrial concerns. That was one great difficulty the people were labouring under. The Director of Agriculture and Fisheries or the Registrar of Co-operative Societies would be able to support that statement. The only way to meet that difficulty was the opening of a Bank by Government, directly or indirectly. The function of a Bank under the auspices of Government was, threefold, *viz.*, (1) ordinary finance, (2) short-term credit and (3) long-term credit. A State Bank had been started

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in Baroda and Mysore and had been doing remarkably well in those two States. The complaint of the Mysore Bank was that it was unable to receive the deposits which were pouring in, because a remunerative opening could not be found for them. So, a thirst had been created in Mysore for the investment of deposits from the people. Another idea which the Dewan of Mysore had in mind was to start a Bank for financing agriculture on long-term credit. Those institutions were called Land Banks intended to convert lands into liquid capital. There was plenty of land in Travancore which required a liberal expenditure of capital. The ryot, who now found it difficult to scrape up some money, would be able to command capital, if he was enabled to convert his lands into liquid money which, again, could be utilized in several directions for the benefit of the people. There was another kind of Bank called Commerical Banks for the benefit of small traders. The regeneration of Egypt was brought about by the institution of the Agricultural Bank. Japan did the same. All those countries found that, by enabling the people to convert dead capital of the land into liquid capital, many industries could be started. The Member, on the analogy of those countries, contended that the people of Travancore too ought to have an Industrial and Land Bank on the one side and a Commercial Bank on the other. The Bank of Madras was utterly inadequate to meet the demands of the people of the country. What was required was a Bank which ought to be of use both to the people and the Government, with branches throughout the country, even in *pakuthis*. Another direction in which the Government might help the development of agriculture was by curtailing the import of paddy into the State. If proper measures were taken, not only could the supply necessary for consumption in the country be produced locally, but a large quantity could also be exported from the State. There were available large areas of *puduval* lands in Kuttanad which were now cultivated only once in two years and were not producing even one-tenth of the quantity they were capable of yielding. The people were shy in making experiments. It was the duty of the Government to demonstrate to the ryot the improved and scientific methods of producing more paddy and then ask the people to proceed on the same lines. That was the most effective means of securing the end in view. Dr. Kunjan Pillai, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, was also of the opinion that the suggestion made by the Member was one of the means by which the yield of paddy in Travancore could be increased ten or twenty fold.

The Member then referred to a small piece of engineering work in which the people were interested, namely, the construction of an enbankment at the northern end of the Vembanad lake, from Thanneermukkam to Vechur, for a distance of about a mile, which would prevent the inrush of brackish water into the reclaimed areas and would also keep out the water from the lake during the ebb and flow. The people, the Member added, had a proposal to wait on the Dewan on deputation in connection with the construction of the embankment.

Dewan.—I shall be glad to receive the deputation. I fear, however, that it would be a big piece of engineering work in which expert advice will have to be taken. Even if it were possible, there may be financial and other difficulties.

Member.—I would request at least an investigation being ordered and the ryots being given an opportunity to explain the matter personally. I think it would be the greatest blessing that could be conferred on the people of North and Central Travancore for the amelioration of their condition. The cost would be very insignificant when compared to the benefit that could be derived.

The Member, continuing, requested, in conclusion, that the points mentioned by him might receive the kind and early consideration of Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

65. The present economic depression in Travancore and remedies for the same.

Mr. M. L. Janardanan Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) said that a country whose imports of articles manufactured in foreign countries came to 41 per cent of the total trade and whose exports of articles manufactured out of her own raw produce was but 12 per cent of the total export trade was decidedly very backward in her economic condition. He then referred to the utter inability of

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